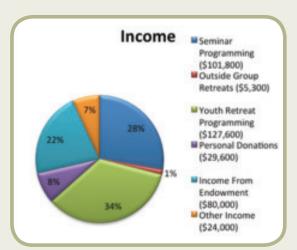


OVER THE COURSE OF NINE SEMINARS AND SIX YOUTH RETREATS IN THE 2013 SEASON, RING LAKE RANCH WELCOMED 326 GUESTS, 183 OF THEM CHILDREN AND YOUTH. OF OUR SEMINAR GUESTS AND VOLUNTEERS, 92 WERE NEW TO THE RANCH AND 119 WERE REPEAT VISITORS.

The Ranch in Review



Total Income: \$368,300



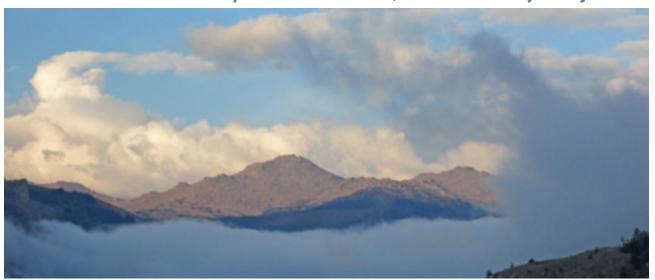
Total Expenses: \$347,500

n this edition of the Carillon we are taking a break from the usual more reflective opening article. Instead, we are offering some important information about Ring Lake Ranch that doesn't get discussed much outside of the Board of Directors, namely the finances of the Ranch. In the adjacent charts you can see generalized categories of income and expenses for 2013. If you've been a guest in recent years, you have probably heard someone say that our guest fees don't cover our expenses. The charts confirm this: The fees we charged for our seminars last year covered less than 1/3 of our expenses. This is the case with almost any guest facility, but unlike some retreat centers and guest ranches that struggled to stay open in recent years, Ring Lake Ranch has the good fortune of having some diversity in our income. We continue to host the young men of Elder High School for their retreat experiences. Demand is so great from Covington Catholic High School for their trip to the Ranch that we will host a second full week with them this summer. The Ranch Board continues to work carefully with our endowment to make sure we are using those funds wisely each year. And, I'm happy to note, several of our seminar weeks this summer are full or close to capacity. The Ranch is in good health, in terms of both finances and programming.

I want to point out a relatively small piece of the income 'pie'. Personal donations make up less than 10% of our income, but they are some of the most important funds we receive each year. We have enough other income to keep the Ranch open, but your gifts help us do more than just keep the Ranch going; your gifts make the Ranch better. Your donations help improve and update the physical facilities. Your donations support the programming that we offer, both our wilderness activities and our evening seminars. Finally, and most important in my mind, your donations allow us to welcome children at no charge, as well as provide scholarships for adult guests who might not otherwise be able to come. Many of our guests have been coming to the Ranch for decades and it's important for the well-being of the Ranch that we provide that same legacy for future generations. In an age where time and financial pressures mean that many people can't get out into wild settings easily, I'm very proud of the quiet determination at Ring Lake Ranch to offer renewal in sacred wilderness to anyone who wishes to come. Your generous gifts make that offer possible year after year. Many thanks from the entire Ring Lake Ranch community.

• Andy Blackmun, Director

Our sessions with Barbara Brown Taylor, Alan and Jeanie Mebane and Sandra Smith are all full. We have space in other weeks, so we welcome you to join us!



Our New Board Members

The Board met in January and approved two new, enthusiastic and gifted Board members. We are pleased to welcome them:

Amy Mears is a pastor in Nashville, Tennessee--Baptist, for goodness' sake; a hiker and swimmer and yarn spinner and reader and multi-sport parent. She's the tired and frequently relieved mom of Lara (17), Danny (15) and Mia (14) who enjoy the delusion that they are ranch kids. She's thrilled to be part of the support team for Ring Lake Ranch and hopes to find creative ways to contribute.

Barnett "Mike" McKee has been a trusts and estates attorney in St. Louis, Missouri for 33 years. He first came to Ring Lake Ranch with his wife, Reverend Ellen Hiatt, and their two children, Kathleen (29) and Jonathan (27) over 10 years ago. He and his wife recently returned for the last couple of seasons with friends from their church, First Congregational UCC of St. Louis. Mike enjoys all of the activities the Ranch has to offer and even enjoys travel to the Ranch on his motorcycle.

The Board also bid farewell to Terri Schulz and Gerry Balboni. They worked tirelessly on many critical projects for the Ranch, including updating the Board bylaws and negotiating the conservation easement with the Jackson Hole Land Trust. We are deeply grateful for their years of service.

The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

Published twice yearly by
Ring Lake Ranch
Designed by
Roderick Robertson
Selected photographs by
Andy Blackmun, Lida Hill,
Bill Oliver, Terri Schulz,
Leah Vader

RLR Board of Directors

David Cramp, *President*Sean Roche.

Vice-President & Treasurer
Kathy Leithner, Vice-President
Judith Plows, Secretary
Ann Hunter, Amy Mears, Graham
Opie, Julie Mavity Maddalena,
Bill Brown, Doug Melius,
Jerry Campbell, Mike McKee

2014 Staff Update

Connie Wood, Patrick Million and **Lee DeArment** are all planning to come back to the Ranch kitchen to keep everyone fed and happy for another season. We are working through some upgrades to the kitchen and wash room, so hopefully there will be new washing sinks installed by the time we welcome our first guests.

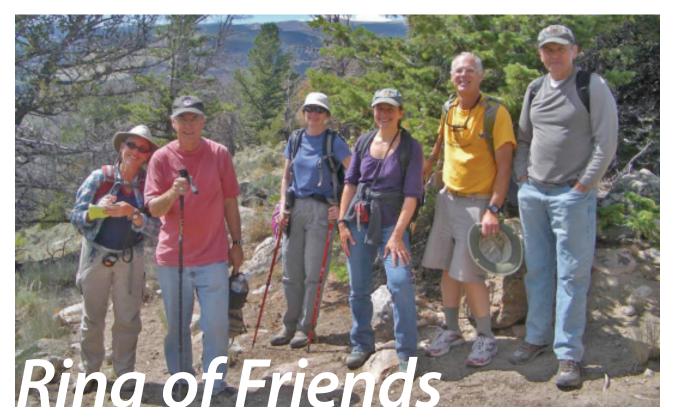
Leah Vader returns as hike leader and housekeeper for a fourth summer. She is currently camped out in Arizona for another season watching bald eagles, so I bet she'll be glad to have a roof over her head in May.

Zsa Bataille joins Mo Morrow and Graham Opie as our wranglers this summer. Zsa has worked at a variety of barns and ranches around the region for many years and brings a wealth of experience in training horses, teaching novice riders and challenging experienced riders, so we are delighted to have her with us this summer. Mo worked as one of our wranglers last summer and can't wait to get back out on the trails. Graham had been a staff assistant for many years and worked for a short time as a wrangler last summer, so we are happy to have him with us for the whole season this year.

Ben Verheul has been working hard refinishing the Chapel floor this winter. If you've seen the job he did with the Living Room floor a couple years ago, you know that the Chapel will look fantastic when he's done.

Amanda Verheul has been racing to keep up with the record number of registrations we have so far. She's starting to think about the new design for tshirts this year, too. Both Amanda and Ben also have their hands full as Dayla and Clayton continue to delight and exhaust them.

I am looking forward to getting up to the Ranch in just a few weeks. By early March, I feel myself longing for the view of the Absarokas from the Top Cabin picture window. My wife Katherine begins an academic sabbatical in June, so she's anticipating some time to rest and recharge with everyone else. Our kids will be right along with us, pitching in on hikes, rides and Saturday house-keeping.



HEF indicates a gift in honor of Henry Everding to the Henry Everding Memorial Fund, which supports the horse program. We apologize if any gifts have been missed or attributed in error. Please let us know if any information needs to be corrected.

Ross Lake Donors (\$5000+)

Dan Kreimer (Elder Student Scholarships)

Lake Louise Donors (\$1001-\$5000)

Jerry Cambell Ed and Lee Everding (HEF) Carl Koch and Joyce Heil Sarah Myers and David Petersen Judy Plows Gene and Charky Tucker

Ring Lake Donors (\$501-\$1000)

Anna Lee Bachtell Richard and Roberta Bondi Peggy Bresee and Ellen Halperin Jeff and Debra Diener (Elder Student Scholarships) Kathy Leithner Ellen K. Lewis Joe McIntire (Scholarship Fund) Mark and Julie Moore (Elder Student Scholarships)

Daniel Paolercio (Elder Student Scholarships) Donna Rolfs (in memory of Don Rolfs) Joseph and Nancy Sternbauer (In memory of Andy Reitz)

Trail Lake Donors (\$101-\$500)

Anonymous (tipi donation) Gerry and Cici Balboni Andy Blackmun and Katherine Turpin Patty and David Bomboy Bill Brown Denny and Patty Coon (in memory of Andy Reitz) Colleen Everding (HEF) Ed Everding (HEF) Beth and Allan Glaesser Vivian Harper Lida Hill Ann and Rod Hunter Lynne Huskinson and Leah Vader Ann Maxwell Warren Murphy Kristen Richards (HEF) Reenie Roe Terri and Keith Schulz (in memory of Dick McIntosh) Austin Turney Ruth Venable Becky Weiss Lynne Williamson

Ann and Harry Wilson

Torrev Lake Donors (\$1-\$100) James and Louise Abbott

Linda Bartholomew Diana Butler Bass and Richard Bass Pam and Louis Battey Wendy Belkin Rebecca Brown (in memory of Andy Reitz) Margie Colarelli (in memory of Andy Reitz) Barbara Coleman Mary Jo Erickson Sam Foushee Ann Gibbs Raymond and Susan Grimaldi Mark Haberman (to honor Dwight Haberman) Susan Hood (to honor Doris Kurath) Doris Kurath (in memory of George) Maggie Edson and Linda Merrill (in memory of Andy Reitz) Lin and Ann Knight Carolyn and Calvin Luker Richard and Debra Manley (to honor Laura Manley) Don and Karen Metz Becky Meyer William Robert McFadden Dorian McGlannan Hannah Mintz David and Bonnie Northcutt Dennis O'Flyng

Bill Oliver Hertha Oliva (HEF) Al and Claire Peterman (HEF) Jude and Alex Rakowski Kristy Richards Ann Wall Richards Jim and Sue Roberts Lisa and Garyl Roberts (HEF) Allan and Carla Townsend Inge Trump (HEF) Tom and Leslie Tupper Leah Vader (in memory of Andy Reitz) Ben and Amanda Verheul Norman Viehmann Pamela Wallace (in memory of Andv Reitz) Elizabeth and Herbert Ware Fred and Susan Webb (in memory of Tom Sebbens, Jeff Lowrance and Don Miller) Dana and Linda Willbanks (HEF) Dick and Gretchen Williams Pam Williams William and Jean Wolfe

Special thanks also for the generous gifts of Sean Roche for managing our website, and Roderick Robertson for designing the Carillon and our print and online advertising.

Ring Lake Ranch



May 25 – May 31 Volunteer Week (Volunteer Week is Full; Wait List Only, Please)

Every year, the Ranch relies on volunteers, both individuals and groups, to clean, do major repair and upkeep projects, open the kitchen, and anything else needed to prepare for guests. Please consider joining us for a week of work, fun, and fellowship!



June 15-21
Larry Loendorf
& Grant Bulltail
American Indian
Memories of the
Absaroka and Wind
River Mountains

In the 1800's Wyoming's Sheep Eater Indians were respected by other Shoshone bands because they lived high up among the powerful spirits of the cannibal owls, the rocky-skin ghosts, and the water ghosts, supernatural entities we see among the petroglyphs around Ring Lake Ranch. Larry Loendorf will focus on the Sheep Eater Indians and their use of the spiritual forces associated with the petroglyphs on Ring Lake Ranch. Loendorf is a cultural anthropologist and archaeologist who has done ground-breaking work on the 'Dinwoody Style' petroglyphs of the Torrey Valley.

For the Crow Indians, the Greater Yellowstone area was a homeland alive with the presence of the sacred. Their Creation Story takes place along the Yellowstone, or as the Crow called it, the Elk River. Grant Bulltail will focus on the Crow idea of sacred energy - the creative powers of the universe that stemmed from the Ultimate Source and undergirded the relationship the Crow had with the natural world and with their spirit helpers. Bulltail is a spiritual leader and Pipe Carrier for the Crow's Sacred Tobacco Society, a former rodeo rider and professional cowboy, and professor of Crow Culture and History at Little Bighorn College.



July 13-19
Barbara Brown
Taylor
Lunar Spirituality:
Learning to Walk in

the Dark (Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please) While human fear of the dark is so well-established that "darkness" has become a synonym for everywhere we do not want to go, plenty of us are called to keep moving even when we cannot see the way ahead. In spite of everything we have been taught, learning to walk in the dark puts us on the sacred way of unknowing, where there are fewer obstacles to encountering the God we did not make up. This week's program will include some experience of the actual dark along with discussion of what is sometimes called "the negative way" by writers as diverse as Meister Eckhart, John of the Cross, Dorothee Soelle, and Gerald May. Barbara Brown Taylor is the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College in rural northeast Georgia. An Episcopal priest since 1984, she is the author of twelve books, including the New York Times bestseller An Altar in the World. Her first memoir, Leaving Church, met with widespread critical acclaim, winning a 2006 Author of the Year award from the

Georgia Writers Association.



July 20-26 Alan & Jeanie Mebane This Living Land

(Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please) Ring Lake's surroundings amid the Wind River Mountains intrigue us all. Why is Wyoming composed of ancient granites, former sea-beds, up-and-coming mountains, and even a modern volcano? What plants and animals live here today? How do they adapt to these environments and each other? What evidence shows that Ring Lake's early human inhabitants revered this area as early as 6,000 years ago? Our session includes hikes and strolls in this dramatic and intriguing landscape, as well as illustrated evening sessions. Alan and Jeanie Mebane came to the Rockies after graduation from Duke University and the University of Nebraska. Alan was a National Park ranger/naturalist for 31 years including three years at Grand Teton NP and ten years as Chief Interpreter of Yellowstone NP. Jeanie has been a naturalist with both the National Park Service and US Forest Service. She currently authors children's books and articles on natural history.



July 27 - Aug 2 Carol Newsom Looking at Job, Looking in the Mirror

The book of Job has often been a reflecting pool where succeeding generations have looked to see the urgent issues of their own time mirrored in this enigmatic book. In recent decades this engagement with Job has often taken place in art-especially drama and film. In this session we will look at the engagement with Job in two critical periods. The aftermath of World War II saw an outpouring of dramas and poetic works (most famously, MacLeish's J.B., but also Elie Wiesel's The Trial of God), most of which were post religious or deeply alienated. In the twentyfirst century, the PBS Holocaust film. "God on Trial." echoed Wiesel, while Terrence Malick's extraordinary film "Tree of Life" offers a different vision of Job. Carol Newsom is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. A scholar of the book of Job and of the Dead Sea Scrolls, she also is interested in the formation of religious responses to the impact of climate change.

2014 Schedule of Programs



Aug. 3 – 9 Frances Taylor Gench Desperate House-

wives? Engaging **Challenging Texts** The Bible is full of embarrassing, offensive, problematic texts that present serious interpretive challenges for contemporary Christian faith and practice. Should they be repudiated? Discarded? Silenced? Or are there perhaps more effective and faithful ways of handling them? This session will tackle the importance of engaging difficult texts directly, with the expectation that we may encounter the living God in our conversation with them. It will provide the opportunity to wrestle with such texts, to consider interpretive strategies for engaging them with integrity, and to reflect on the authority of Scripture. Frances Taylor Gench is the Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Frances is an ordained minister of

the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

Her recent publications include

Faithful Disagreement: Wrestling

with Scripture in the Midst of Church

Conflict, Back to the Well: Women's

Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels

and Encounters with Jesus: Studies

in the Gospel of John.



Aug. 10 - 16
Don Saliers
Hymns, Psalms and
Spiritual Song: Music and The Human

Heart before God

What did Augustine mean by saying "they who sing, pray twice?" We will explore questions of music, poetry and theology in a range of hymns, psalms and spirituals, paying attention to little known treasures as well as recent surprises. Don Saliers is the William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship, Emeritus at Candler School of Theology. An accomplished musician, theologian, and scholar of liturgics, and a United Methodist pastor, he is the author of numerous books on the relationship between theology and worship practices, including A Song to Sing, a Life to Live and Worship Come To Its Senses.



Aug. 17-23 Roberta Bondi Amma, Give Me a Word

The desert fathers and mothers of ancient Egypt believed that love is the goal of the Christian life, and life in the desert vastly contributed to it. In our time together we will reflect and meditate on some of the most wonderful, delightful, and life giving insights that come out of their experience. These are folks every modern Christian needs to know! Roberta Bondi is retired from a distinguished teaching career with Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where she was Professor of Church History. She holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and Oxford University, and is the author of several books, including Memories of God and Houses.



Aug. 24-30 Carl Koch

Journalkeeping: Exploring a Powerful Spiritual Practice
From the earliest cave paintings to digitized text in electronic files, humans have always kept journals. And for centuries, journals have been an important tool for spiritual growth. During this session, we will find perspectives that cross time and tradition, plus plenty of practical help to: guide our spiritual journey with

writing, find approaches that are right for each of us, recognize and understand our inner dialogues, and make our journals an avenue for prayer and meditation. Carl Koch has been a writing teacher for forty years and a journal keeper for 30 of those. Carl has authored more than thirty books on adult spiritual growth and on writing, including Journalkeeping: Exploring a Great Spiritual Practice. He holds master degrees in religious education, spirituality, and English and a doctorate in English from the University of Michigan. We also

know him as emeritus director of

Ring Lake Ranch.



Aug 31 - Sept 6 Sandra Smith Awakening to Our Essence

(Session is Full; Wait List Only, Please)

Ring Lake Ranch is pleased to host an advanced Enneagram workshop and retreat led by Sandra Smith, a certified Enneagram teacher. A working knowledge of the Enneagram is required. For more information, contact Sandra at sandracsmith@charter.net or 828-684-2339.

For more details on all these programs check our website: www.ringlake.org

Scholarships Available

Partial scholarships are available to anyone needing assistance to come to programs at the Ranch. All people are welcome at Ring Lake and we don't want the cost to keep anyone, especially first-time guests, from attending a session. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our simple application, please contact Andy Blackmun at andy@ringlake.org or 888-458-5253.

A Hope for the Generations

"Look! A message in a bottle!" I said, picking up a small glass jar partly hidden in a small cairn beside the large cairn marking the summit of Whiskey Mountain, elevation 11,154, in the Wind River Range in Wyoming.

"A geocache!" exclaimed Leah.

Oh! I thought. I'd heard of geocaches, but never found one, or even looked for one, for that matter. Inside this jar we could see a folded piece of paper, a few coins, and a broken pencil.

The wind was too stiff at the summit to open the jar and handle a piece of paper, so we admired the view, snapped photos, and made our way over to the shelter of an outcropping of rocks slightly below summit, where the view is vast,

a fine reward for the arduous ascent. There we enjoyed our lunches and a bit of rest. Then we inspected the geocache.

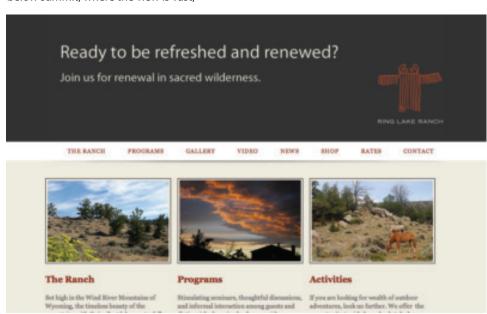
On one side of the curled quarter-sheet of notebook paper was a note from Eli Boardman, who was 11 years old July 25, 2011, the day he and his family hiked to the top of Whiskey Mountain. Eli requested that all finders list their names and the date on the chart drawn on the other side and leave a penny minted in the current year.

Several other hikers had done so. I added our names and the date to the list, but who hikes with money? And what are the chances, if we had, that we'd have a penny minted in 2013? Gerry had some coins—no pennies, though--and

offered two quarters for the good of the cause. We returned the geocache to its cairn and began our descent.

Eli, wherever you are, I hope you get to make that hike again, and when you do, that the jar is still there. I hope when you're my age, you're still climbing mountains. I pray that in the year 2056 you can still gaze upon glaciers and alpine lakes when you look down, and that you'll cross paths with bighorn sheep. I'm glad your parents are giving you this wondrous experience of God's creation, and that the view inspires in you a desire for your children to see it, too.

· Kathy Leithner, RLR Board



Ring Lake Ranch in the Electronic Age

It used to be that the *Carillon* was the primary means of communicating with Ranch guests about upcoming summer programs, special news, and reflections on the Ranch experience. Most of our guests now have access to a variety of ways to hear about the Ranch. We send out brief enewsletters every few weeks starting in January and we post new programs on both our website and Facebook Group page at the end of each summer. Because we currently have many more physical mailing addresses than email addresses in our database, it's difficult to announce things like our next summer's schedule to everyone at the same time, especially when some seminars can fill up almost immediately. If you don't receive emails from Ring Lake Ranch, but would like to, please send your email address to Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org and she'll add you to our list. You are also welcome to join the Ring Lake Ranch Group on Facebook and visit the Ranch website, www.ringlake.org, for upcoming programs.

Volunteers at Ring Lake Ranch in 2014

If you look at the seminar listings, you'll see our Volunteer Week, like several of the seminar weeks, is already full. Most of the volunteer slots during our seminar weeks are taken as well, but we still have a couple openings in the latter part of the summer. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Andy at andy@ringlake.org or call him at 888-458-5253.

Transportation Fees for 2014

We are happy to pick up guests from either Jackson Hole or Riverton airport by previous arrangement. PLEASE SELECT YOUR FLIGHT TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO 3:00 P.M. Airport transport fees for the summer: \$60 per person one way, maximum \$120 one way per family or group registered together. We want to make getting to the Ranch as convenient as possible, so please let us know your flight schedule well in advance.

2014 Registration

2014 RATES

All rates are per person and based on double/multiple occupancy

Includes lodging * meals * seminars * horseback riding * guided hiking * boating. No charge for children 12 & under.

Scholarships are available: Contact Andy at mailing address below or andy@ringlake.org

ADULT FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath	\$825
Basic lodging with private bath	\$930
Large Family cabin with private bath	\$985

YOUTH FEES FOR 6 DAY SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 1/)\$625	
Child (ages 12 and under)no charge	

ADULT FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Basic lodging with shared bath	\$ 1437
Basic lodging with private bath	\$ 1630
Large Family cahin with private bath	\$ 1710

YOUTH FEES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS

Youth (ages 13 – 17)	\$ 1040
Child (ages 12 and under)no	charge

All fees exclude sales & lodging taxes. Contact Amanda at amanda@ringlake.org or 307-455-2663 to inquire about daily and off-season rates. To guarantee a private room, contact Amanda about additional fee & availability.

Receive a 10% discount on your session fees by bringing someone new to the Ranch with you.

Please indicate on your registration form who the new guest is. When they register, we'll record the discount. Thank you for spreading the word about Ring Lake Ranch.

Deposit:

To hold your reservations, we request a deposit of \$250/adult and \$135/youth for 6 day sessions or \$430/adult and \$200/youth for two sessions. The deposit is refundable (less a 20% handling charge) up to 60 days in advance of the session for which you have registered. After that time, the deposit is refundable (less 20%) only if we can rebook your space in the session.

No. of Registrants:

Adults @ rate	
Youth (13-17)	
Children(12 & under)	no charge
TOTAL (without taxes)	
Deposit Amount	

Session	
Dates	
Registrant Name(s)	
Names & ages of children (if applicable)	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Home Phone ()	Work Phone ()
Cell () Email	
Accommodation preference:	
☐ Basic/shared bath	☐ Basic/private bath
☐ Large Family/private bath	Cabin #
Roommate preference (registering separate)	y)
One bed?	☐ Two beds?
Is walking over steep or rough terrain difficul	t for you?
Yes	□ No
Any other physical limitations?	
Dietary restrictions/food allergies:	
Will you need transportation from the airpor	t?
(see spring Carillon or website for charges)	
□ No	☐ Yes Jackson/Riverton
Signature	

We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. Pay by cash or your personal check and receive a 5% discount in fees. For security purposes, please do not include your credit card number on this form. Please use the online store at www.ringlake. org/store to pay deposits and fees.

Return form to:

Ring Lake Ranch

P.O. Box 806

Dubois, WY 82513

(888) 458-5253 toll free

(307) 455-2663

amanda@ringlake.org

www.ringlake.org



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Come join us at Ring Lake Ranch for "renewal in a sacred wilderness."

Our programs for 2014 are listed on pages 4 & 5. Learn about the Ranch petroglyphs and their origins, consider the spirituality of singing, or study new interpretations of the Book of Job, all in a gorgeous setting!

For more information about our programs and the Ranch community, please visit our website: www.ringlake.org.

A few comments from our 2013 guests:

"Comfy, beautiful cabins, boats, horses, hikes meals, snacks, coffee, such healthy food and tasty, personal sharing, square dancing, bird-sighting, fly-fishing, herons, moose, osprey, prayers, poems, and daily interactions — all part of me now. I head back home with a full heart and tighter jeans—memories galore."

-J.H.

"Great restful and spiritual environment for solitary as well as group activities" - RW

"Staff and volunteers are very jolly and helpful." - AG